

**MEETING SUMMARY, FORMER NANSEMOND ORDNANCE DEPOT (FNOD)
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)**

To: RAB Members, Interested Parties
From: Adriane James, U.S. Army Corps Project Manager and RAB Co-Chair
Sandra Chaloux, CEC, Inc., RAB Facilitator
Re: June 5, 2003 RAB Meeting Summary

RAB Members Present: Fred Copeland Russ Dudley Tim Fink Adriane James Bruce Johnson Debbie Miller Thomas O'Grady Marian "Bea" Rogers David Saunders Carl Serrette Cherie Walton	Affiliation: GE VDOT TCC USACE, Project Manager, Gov't. Co-Chair Respass Beach VDEQ City of Suffolk Community Co-Chair Bennett's Creek Burbage Grant Reactives Management Corporation
RAB Facilitator Present: Sandra Chaloux	CEC, Inc.
RAB Members Absent: Jim Bennett Rob Thomson	Dominion Lands EPA

7:05 p.m. **Introduction and Welcome/Call to Order**

(Sandra Chaloux – CEC, Inc.)

The meeting was called to order. RAB members and guests introduced themselves. Sandra reviewed the meeting agenda. No corrections were noted on the meeting summary from the last meeting.

7:10 p.m. **Corps Update** *(Adriane James, Cheryl Fromme, Rick Aiken, Greg Tracey)*

Chemical Warfare Material Testing

(Rick Aiken – J.M. Waller & Associates)

No news is good news. If there was anything active or significant the laboratory would have notified EPA immediately. EPA expects the results back from the lab soon.

Project Timeline

(Rick Aiken – J.M. Waller & Associates)

Rick reviewed the project timeline. The team is pulling together a work plan for soil testing in the Track K and Pesticide Drum area. This will probably lead to some risk assessment and soil removal. In July, the Corps will be doing some testing along the James River Beachfront for TCE. Hopefully the Corps will be able to send the Land Use Control Memorandum of Agreement to the City next week. The Corps is aiming to have a public meeting in October for the offshore proposed plan. The Corps will be proposing No Further Action.

HTRW Cleanup Update

(Cheryl Fromme – USACE)

TNT Area Sampling

USACE conducted both soil and groundwater sampling in the TNT Area recently in an effort to characterize the current conditions of the soil and groundwater contamination. USACE conducted a soils investigation on March 10, 2003 and conducted a groundwater investigation from March 31, 2003 through April 3, 2003. Cheryl said that the Corps has both deep and shallow groundwater monitoring wells in the TNT area and showed a map with the locations. She said that the Corps just received the results from the sampling effort and the results were preliminary. Arsenic, Iron, and Manganese were detected in several wells at levels exceeding their EPA Region III's Tapwater Risk Based Concentrations (RBC). An explosive compound, 2, 4,6-Trinitrotoluene (TNT) was detected in four wells at concentrations ranging from 2.6 ppb to 97.2 ppb. EPA Region III's Tapwater RBC for 2, 4,6-Trinitrotoluene is 2.23 ppb. Cheryl also mentioned that Dioxins (a product of combustion) were detected in some of the wells, however, there are no EPA Region III RBCs to use as standard for comparison. At this point she just wanted to let the RAB know that Dioxins were detected, but that the Toxicity Equivalent Factors (which is used to determine if a regulatory standard for Dioxins has been exceeded), have not yet been calculated. Cheryl showed maps of the TNT area illustrating the wells with exceedances for metals, explosives, and Dioxins. It should be noted that no one uses the groundwater in this area; therefore, there is no immediate threat. She then showed the soil sampling locations. Metals were detected in all the soil samples, at various concentrations. One surface soil sample, which was collected within the TNT Area cleanup boundaries, did detect explosives compounds. Explosives were not detected in any of the subsurface soil samples. Dioxins were detected in three subsurface samples approximately 4 feet below the surface. Cheryl reiterated that the dioxin findings did not necessarily mean that they are at levels that would cause a problem. The next step is to perform a Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment for the area.

Conceptual Sitewide Groundwater Model

(Cheryl Fromme – USACE)

Cheryl showed a site map illustrating the groundwater flow direction at the site. She told the RAB that the project team was surprised that the groundwater flow direction on the western part of FNOD is to the north instead of the west. Both the lower and upper aquifer are flowing in the same direction, north and northeast. Rick added that we don't have any significant contamination on the deeper aquifer. Cheryl said that in some sections of the site the confining unit does not exist. A RAB member asked how fast the groundwater moves. For the shallow groundwater aquifer, groundwater moves about 20 to 200 feet per year. In the deep groundwater aquifer, the groundwater moves between 200 to 600 feet per year. Bea asked if groundwater is moving faster on the east side of the site or the west. Cheryl said that the model has not been completely refined yet. The model will help the project team determine dispersion of contaminants in the groundwater. Once the model is calibrated it can be used at each of the source areas to determine the extent of any groundwater contamination and to develop an appropriate cleanup strategy.

Tire Pile/Paint Can & Pesticide Drum Area

(Cheryl Fromme – USACE)

The Corps needs to take more samples in these areas for Dioxin and Dieldrin to delineate the affected soil. Cherie pointed out that there is no permitted waste disposal facility in the country that accepts waste containing Dioxin. There is a facility in Canada that will accept that type of waste which is quite expensive.

GE Pond

(Cheryl Fromme – USACE)

The Corps was able to collect the surface water samples here but they experienced problems collecting sediment samples due to a 12-inch layer of organic material (pine needles, etc.) on

the bottom of the pond. The Corps is waiting on new sampling equipment to arrive that will enable them to collect the sediment samples. It should be in next week.

Offshore Area Study

(Greg Tracey – SAIC)

The Corps finalized the baseline ecological risk assessment for the offshore area with EPA in February. The study area included the area from the low tide line out a mile into the water from Streeter creek all the way to the western FNOD project boundary. SAIC anticipates completing the human health risk assessment for the Offshore Area in August. The Corps is planning on a public meeting for the Offshore Area Proposed Plan in October 2003.

Nearshore Area Investigation

(Greg Tracey – SAIC)

Fishing Pier - SAIC just completed an ecological risk assessment of the fishing pier. This week SAIC has been surveying the James River Beachfront area from the beach out to low tide. Greg said that the fishing pier extends 550 feet from the shore and typically has 40 or 50 people fishing from it on a nice day. He showed photos of the pier and an outfall between the pier and the breakwater. He said that there has been a concern that at one time contaminants from the site may have migrated or eroded into the offshore area. This is the reason the Corps initiated a separate study of the fishing pier. A RAB member asked if there was anything coming from the outfall. Greg said that it runs dry. Greg showed a photo of some survey equipment and said that SAIC is gathering data to evaluate the habitat for fish and crabs and to determine what is going on in that area. SAIC has taken photographs of the sediment and water interface at 25 locations and collected sediments in 10 locations. He showed some examples of the types of photos that are taken with the equipment and the locations around the pier where the photos and sediment samples were taken. Greg said that they found that all the sediments were nontoxic and the organisms that were studied in the sediment had a high survival rate (90%). No PCBs, pesticides or explosives were detected. SAIC did some modeling to determine migration of birds and fish. The conclusion stated in the Risk Characterization report which was submitted to the regulators in March 2003 is that there are no ecological risks around the fishing pier. The fishing pier is just one piece of the nearshore environment that the Corps/SAIC are reviewing.

James River Beachfront – This survey will extend from the old pier to Streeter's Creek. A great deal of shoreline erosion has occurred on the beachfront. There have been some unconfirmed concerns about possible runoff from onshore sources into the intertidal area. There may be some burn pits underwater. The questions that the Corps is trying to answer are 1) what is the human health and ecological risk today and 2) what will it be in the future. If we have chemicals in the sediment where are they going? SAIC is going to design a study to evaluate the potential for contaminants in the deep sediments, potential for loss of these contaminants into the James River, uptake characteristics by fish and human, the potential human exposure from wading in the shallow water, and develop a new conceptual model for the nearshore area of the JRB. Greg said that based on data that has already been collected he does not believe there is a current exposure risk issue at the surface now. He said he is more concerned about a potential future exposure scenario if a hurricane were to hit that would cause movement of contaminants in the deep sediments. SAIC is conducting this study in three phases:

- Phase I – Identify objects, depth below surface and magnetic character
- Phase II – Review data to determine where the debris potential contaminants exist, an oceanographic study or wave energy study to determine erosion risks, collect sediment samples to determine the horizontal and vertical extent of chemical contamination
- Phase III – Risk Assessment for existing and future scenarios

Greg showed photos of the type of survey equipment that they use for these type of studies and some of the data that is generated. Tom O'Grady said that he thought HRSD was using the

outfall and treating 30 million gallons a day. Greg said that they have not seen any contribution of contamination from the outfall. Greg showed some preliminary results and readings from the magnetometer survey taken earlier that week. The timetable for completing this effort is as follows:

- Geophysical survey (May-June 03)
- Geophysical report (July 03)
- Reach consensus on sediment core sample locations & conduct coring study (Aug 03)
- Complete chemistry and aquatic toxicity testing (Oct 03)
- Complete draft Ecological Risk Assessment report (Dec 03)
- Regulatory review (Jan-Feb 04)
- Final Ecological Risk Assessment report (March 04)

Cherie asked why the focus was the JRB and not the Nansemond River beachfront. Greg said that the work was being conducted as a part of the JRB Area of Concern. Cheryl said the Nansemond River Beachfront near shore work is still in question.

Ordnance & Explosives Update

(Rick Aiken – USACE Contractor)

TNT Area Pit 18 – Rick said that the field crew has completed the work around the perimeter of the site and are working in the pit and still have some dirt to sift in grid B-01. The work will be completed by mid July. The OE field team has removed 451 pounds of TNT and has been doing about 5 detonations a day to render the area safe. Rick showed photos of the field team working in the pit and photos of the TNT found. This area was used to steam-out/recycle the explosives from the shells.

GE Main Burning Ground – Rick said progress is being made. The field crew is doing as much manual work as they can and are gearing up to do some mechanical sifting. The mechanical sifting will probably begin in the Summer 2004. The field team is doing some asbestos sampling in a few of the grids. Rick showed the OE Grid plan illustrating where OE has been found and which grids have been completed.

Area Development Plan

Rick said that the Corps has been approached by a developer who purchased property that includes the former Impregnite Kit Area from Dominion Lands. The developer showed the Corps their proposed development plan for review. Rick showed the RAB the proposed development plan which included residential development. Bea said that she thought that once the site was delisted that there would be no residential development on this property. Rick said that the Land Use Control Plan agreement states that the Corps would be part of the process if someone wanted to rezone the property. Rick said that the Corps would advise the City not to rezone the property around the OE areas. Rick showed the current zoning for the FNOD property. Bea asked if a new homeowner would also receive information on the fact that the site was a former ordnance site. Rick said that the Corps will periodically get a mailing list of new residents from the city and the Corps will send information out. The City will also provide information/a pamphlet to anyone that applies for a building permit. Rick pointed out that there are so many layers of protection built into the Land Use Control plan to prevent inappropriate land use in and around the OE areas.

OE Removal Numbers

Rick showed the last tally of OE removal numbers sitewide.

Perchlorate

Perchlorate is a new and emerging issue. EPA is in the process of establishing a reference dose or daily acceptable consumption level. Rick said Perchlorate is not a current issue at FNOD. Rick said he would post some information about it on the FNOD project website.

Human Remains Reburial

(Adriane James –USACE)

The reburial ceremony for the human remains that were found at the James River beachfront will be held on June 21, 2003 at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church on Mahan Street in downtown Suffolk. The gravesite service will be held immediately following the service at First Baptist Church in Chuckatuck (Suffolk) at the Oakland Cemetery operated by Little Bethel Baptist Church. Adriane said that the Corps has received a great deal of community support for this effort. She reported that the Daily Press newspaper had run two articles about the reburial on May 30 and 31. An article also appeared in the Richmond Times Dispatch and the Corps has received an inquiry from the Washington Post. Adriane said that the Corps was in the process of sending out letters to invite people to attend the event. Adriane encouraged the RAB and meeting participants to come out to the event.

9: 00 p.m.

Regulatory Update

None given.

9:01 p.m.

RAB Business

Bea brought some newspapers articles for the project file that ran in the Virginian-Pilot about the FNOD parcels that Dominion Lands sold that were discussed earlier in the meeting. Bea stated that the former Impregnite Kit Area should not be redeveloped for residential use. Rick distributed the shirts to the RAB members that requested them. RAB members should see Rick about ordering a shirt if they are interested. The RAB discussed the articles about the flag pole that was erected on TCC property.

Landowner Updates

Tom O’Grady said that Dominion Lands has sold all its property at FNOD and he suggested that we check with Jim Bennett to see if he is still interested in serving on the RAB. Tom said that there are two new property owners – East West Realty and Suffolk Towers LLC. Bea requested that CEC send a letter to both to invite them to attend the RAB meetings. The RAB members agreed. Tom said that there is a great deal happening in northern Suffolk. He said that 7 new office buildings will be breaking ground in the second half of 2003. Two of these new office buildings will be inside the FNOD boundary. Tom showed the locations of the new office locations. Rick asked Tom O’Grady to have the new property owners get in touch with the Corps. Tom O’Grady explained that there are several parcels of land at FNOD that are being proposed for rezoning. He said that the rezoning process starts with a City staff recommendation that is reviewed by the Land Use Committee which decides whether it should then be considered by the Planning Commission, and then there would be a public hearing.

9:20 p.m.

Public Comment Period / Q&A

None.

9:30 p.m.

Establish Action Items/Set Agenda and Date for Next RAB Meeting

The next RAB meeting was set for August 7, 2003. The meeting will be held at the Bon Secours Health Center at Harbour View at 7: 00 p.m. The meeting room is on the second floor.

Agenda items for the next RAB meeting:

- Groundwater modeling update
- Chemical Warfare Material Testing Update
- MOA with City of Suffolk
- Human Remains Reburial Update

Action item: Send RAB meeting invitation letter to new landowners.

9:05 p.m. Meeting Adjourned

Others Present: Rick Aiken Bill Hudson Scott Emry Cheryl Fromme Greg Tracey Harry Wheeler, Jr. Dennis Miller John Bolino	Affiliation: J.M. Waller & Associates EPA HRPDC USACE-Norfolk District SAIC Tech Law, Inc. USACE, Huntsville Citizen
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